

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T USNATO 0230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION JANUARY 16 ON AIR MANPOWER

REF: A. STATE 8358

B. STATE 263866

C. USNATO 7008

D. USNATO 0151

1. SPC ON JANUARY 16 DISCUSSED U.S. COMBINED PROPOSAL ON
AIR MANPOWER (REF A).

2. MISSION, AFTER DISCUSSING THE U.S. PROPOSAL WITH FRG, UK,
CANADIAN AND BELGIAN DELEGATIONS, HAD SENT TO ALL MEMBERS OF
SPC ON JANUARY 15 A PEPER CONTAINING SUBSTANCE OF PARAS
2-11 OF REFTTEL A. IN INTRODUCING PAPER AT JAN 16 SPC, U.S.
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REP (PEREZ) STRESSED THAT THE U.S. APPROACH DID NOT REPRESENT A
FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE U.S. PROPOSALS ALREADY ON THE TABLE,
BUT RATHER BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER AS ONE PROPOSAL: THE PROPOSALS
FOR INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN THE COMMON CEILING AND FOR POSSIBLE
U.S. AND SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I WOULD HAVE
MAXIMUM NEGOTIATING LEVERAGE IF PRESENTED TO THE EAST TOGETHER.

THIS WOULD ALSO ENABLE ALLIES TO CONSIDER U.S. VIEWS ON AIR MANPOWER IN AN INTEGRATED WAY. U.S. REP NOTED THAT THE U.S. FRAMED ITS COMBINED PROPOSAL IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO CREATE A PRECEDENT FOR REQUIRED PHASE II AIR MANPOWER REDUCTION, AND CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO SUBSTANCE OF PARA 8, REF A. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR TIMELY NAC GUIDANCE TO THE AHG.

3. UK REP (LOGAN) SAID THAT ALLIES NEED TO DISCUSS THE NEGOTIATING VALUE OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME, AND NOTED THAT THE MBFR WORKING GROUP WILL NEED TO LOOK AT THOSE MILITARY-TECHNICAL ASPECTS WHICH IT HAS NOT EXAMINED PREVIOUSLY. HE QUESTIONED WHETHER NAC COULD APPROVE GUIDANCE THIS NEGOTIATING SESSION.

4. CANADIAN REP (ROY) SAID ALLIES SHOULD DISCUSS VALUE OF PRESENTING THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO THE OTHER SIDE AT THIS TIME, PRIOR TO CONCLUSION OF CSCE, AND GIVEN POSSIBLE NEGATIVE EFFECT ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS OF SOVIET ABROGATION OF TRADE AGREEMENT.

5. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES DO NOT THINK IT WISE TO BEGIN A DISCUSSION WITH EAST ON POSSIBLE AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WHEN ALLIANCE IS NOT YET READY TO EXAMINE NUCLEAR ELEMENT. AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS ARE NATURAL COMPLEMENTS SINCE EAST ASKS FOR INCLUSION OF BOTH. BELGIUM BELIEVES ALLIES CAN CONTINUE MILITARY-TECHNICAL STUDY OF AIR MANPOWER, BUT SHOULD NOT DISMISS POLITICAL ASPECTS OR GUIDANCE TO AHG UNTIL ALLIES CAN CONSIDER BOTH AIR AND NUCLEAR ELEMENTS TOGETHER. HE SAID BELGIUM AUTHORITIES WISH TO HASTEN THE MOMENT WHEN ALLIES CAN CONSIDER OPTION III.

6. U.S. REP STRESSED THAT IN VIEW OF EASTERN INTEREST IN AIR REDUCTIONS, TIMELY NAC GUIDANCE OFFERED POSSIBILITY OF DRAWING EAST

INTO A DISCUSSION OF BASIC ALLIED NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES. HE SAID THERE WAS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE U.S. AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL
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AND OPTION III, AND NO NEED FOR ALLIES TO STUDY THE TWO TOGETHER. U.S. AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS OF UP TO 15 PCT WOULD NOT REQUIRE AIRCRAFT REDUCTIONS AND SO DO NOT IMPINGE ON THE NUCLEAR OPTION. MINISTERS AT DECEMBER NAC MINISTERIAL IN ANY EVENT DECIDED NOT TO PROCEED AT THIS TIME ON NUCLEAR OPTION. ALLIES NEED TO EXAMINE U.S. AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL, AND DECIDE ON GUIDANCE TO AHG, FOR USE AT BEST TACTICAL MOMENT.

7. FRG REP (HOYNCK) INTRODUCED FRG PAPER ON AIR MANPOWER (SEPTTEL), PREPARED PRIOR TO INTRODUCTION OF COMBINED U.S. PROPOSAL. FRG PAPER NOT DISCUSSED.

8. U.S. REP ALSO INTRODUCED U.S. VIEWS ON SUB-SECTION II B2 OF REF B.

9. SPC WILL NEXT CONSIDER U.S. COMBINED PROPOSAL ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20. IN RESPONSE TO UK, CANADIAN AND BELGIAN REQUESTS, SPC DECIDED THAT WG WILL REPORT TO IT ON MILITARY TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF U.S. COMBINED PROPOSAL NOT COVERED IN PREVIOUS WG REPORTS.

10. ACTION REQUESTED: 1) MISSION HAS STRESSED WITH ALLIES THE NEED FOR EARLY, TIMELY NAC GUIDANCE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION OF WASHINGTON'S TIME FRAME, I.E. WHETHER WASHINGTON WISHES GUIDANCE TO AHG DURING FEBRUARY-MARCH NEGOTIATING SESSION IN VIENNA. 2) EARLY U.S. RESPONSES TO ALLIED QUESTIONS ALREADY RAISED IN WG ON OPTIONAL U.S. AND SOVIET AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS WOULD EXPEDITE MILITARY-TECHNICAL REPORT ON THE U.S. PROPOSAL (REFS C AND D).BRUCE

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